United Nations A/61/923

General Assembly

Distr.: General
24 May 2007

Original: English

Sixty-first session
Agenda items 129 and 130

Financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994

Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991

Comprehensive proposal on appropriate incentives to retain staff of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the comprehensive proposal on appropriate incentives to retain staff of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (A/61/824). During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met with the Deputy Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, as well as with other representatives of the Tribunals and of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarifications.

2. The report of the Secretary-General was submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 61/241 and 61/242, in which the Assembly endorsed the recommendations of the Advisory Committee (see A/61/591). In its previous report (A/61/591, para. 8), the Committee had recommended that the Secretary-General be requested to prepare a comprehensive proposal with the procedure to be applied, the decisions required of the Assembly and a clearer projection of the numbers of staff required to be retained in order to achieve the stated objective, taking into account

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the latest updated time frame of the completion strategy. The Committee notes that the methodology used and the cost estimates in the report under consideration are the same as those presented previously by the Secretary-General in his report (A/61/522). It also notes that the report of the Secretary-General has not responded to the request for a more precise determination of the expertise, functions and posts that would be required during the foreseeable phases of the completion strategy (A/61/591, para. 6). However, in that connection, the Committee was informed that the Tribunals had undertaken a rigorous review of the anticipated workload in the biennium 2008-2009, on the basis of the actual number of remaining cases to be tried and the staffing complement needed for each case, in order to determine the requirements needed to support the trials and appeals. Following the completion of first instance trials, a consequential reduction in the number of posts is envisaged for the biennium 2008-2009 (see para. 6 below).

3. The Advisory Committee recalls that the Tribunals had put in place a number of measures to retain staff, including: (a) extension of the length of contracts of all staff from one year to two years; (b) establishment of an internal G-to-P examination; (c) reduction of required post incumbency from two years to one year before staff can apply for posts at a higher level; (d) recruitment of qualified spouses; and (e) expansion of training options offered. The Committee had been informed that those measures, which aimed to improve job security, allay staff anxieties and provide opportunities for staff development, had had a positive effect on staff morale.

4. The Secretary-General indicates that the retention incentive would apply only to staff who are required to remain with the Tribunals until their services are no longer needed and their posts are abolished. The criteria for determining staff that would not qualify for the retention incentive are listed in paragraph 11 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/61/824). It is estimated that 40 per cent of Professional staff in both Tribunals and 50 per cent and 70 per cent of General Service staff in the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, respectively, would qualify for the retention incentive.

5. In tables 1 and 2 of the annex to the report of the Secretary-General (A/61/824), it is indicated that the retention incentive would lead to substantial savings in terms of lost productivity and costs of rotation of staff. The Secretary-General's estimates are based on the assumption of an annual turnover rate of 20 per cent for the four-year period from 2007 to 2010 under the status quo, which would be reduced by half, that is, to 10 per cent, with the introduction of a retention incentive (see A/61/824, annex, paras. 6-8). The Advisory Committee is aware that, by its very nature, such an assumption is inherently difficult to prove, since the actual rotation rates will depend on decisions taken by staff with respect to their personal situation and the opportunities presented to them in the future. Furthermore, the financial implications of a divergence from the estimate of 10 per cent could be considerable. However, the Committee also notes that the costs of rotation and resulting productivity loss may be high.

6. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, by and large, all functions, both at the Professional and General Service levels, were deemed to require experience and knowledge of the working methods of the Tribunals. Rather than identifying specific posts, functions or expertise required for the implementation of the completion strategy, the approach taken was to reduce the

total numbers of posts as the different phases of the completion strategy are to be concluded. Thus, for the biennium 2008-2009, a substantial percentage reduction of the number of posts is envisaged in the areas and functions related to trial activity, as the Tribunals move from the trials at first instance to the appeals phase (see A/61/824, paras. 12-16). Some of the resources released from abolished posts would be redeployed to strengthen appellate support work in the Office of the Prosecutor and the Registry. The remaining posts would be those considered essential. In that regard, the Committee was assured that the Tribunals had conducted a rigorous review of the anticipated workload in the biennium 2008-2009 on the basis of the actual number of remaining cases and the staff needed to support each case (see para. 2 above).

7. As noted in paragraph 13 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/61/824), an update on the progress made towards the implementation of the completion strategies will be submitted by the Presidents and Prosecutors of the Tribunals to the Security Council in the second quarter of 2007. At present, it is anticipated that, at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, trials on first instance will be completed at the end of 2008 and appeals at the end of 2009. As for the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, trials on first instance are expected to be completed sometime during 2009 and appeals at the end of 2010.

8. **The Advisory Committee recognizes the importance of retaining key staff to support the timely implementation of the completion strategy. It also recognizes the special features of the Tribunals, including the fact that a large proportion of their staff perform specialized functions not readily available within the United Nations system. Under the circumstances, the Committee considers the use of a retention incentive, pursuant to the terms of annex III to the Staff Rules, to be an option, inasmuch as it would enable the Tribunals to retain required staff until their posts are abolished. The Committee recommends that consideration be given to increasing the number of years of service required before key staff become eligible for the retention incentive from two to five years of continuous service, until the post is abolished. In the present circumstances, the retention incentive would become effective from the biennium 2008-2009.**

9. **The Advisory Committee further recommends that the administrative arrangements for retention incentives be based on an ad hoc decision of the General Assembly rather than an amendment to the Staff Rules.**

United Nations A/61/924

General Assembly

Distr.: General
24 May 2007

Original: English

Sixty-first session
Agenda item 117
Programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007

Report of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

Report of the Secretary-General on the financial situation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered an advance version of the report of the Secretary-General on the financial situation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) (A/61/897). During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met with the Director of INSTRAW and representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided clarifications and additional information.

2. In his report, the Secretary-General responded to the request of the General Assembly, in its decision 61/555, to report to the Assembly, at the second part of its resumed sixty-first session in May 2007, on the financial situation of the Institute for 2007. The Advisory Committee recalls that in paragraph 10 of resolution 60/229, the Assembly decided to provide its full support to the current efforts to revitalize the Institute and, in this regard, to provide it with the requisite funds to enable it to carry out its core functions for the biennium 2006-2007. In its decision 61/555, the Assembly decided, on an exceptional basis, to authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for the financing of INSTRAW in an amount of up to US$ 190,000, under section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007, subject to full reimbursement, pending receipt of voluntary contributions. In its decision on the statement of programme budget implications contained in document A/C.5/60/16, the Assembly took note of the indication in paragraph 18 of the Secretary-General's statement that "the provision of additional funds to finance operations of the Institute in 2007 would imply an annual subvention to the Institute, which is subject to the express decision of the

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General Assembly in this regard and to the amendment of article VIII of the statute of the Institute". The General Assembly, by its resolution 60/247, appropriated an amount of $1,042,200 for the biennium 2006-2007, to be used for INSTRAW should there be a shortage of voluntary contributions for the functioning of the Institute in 2006. In 2006, the appropriation of $1,042,200 was transferred to the Trust Fund for INSTRAW (see annex I).

3. Regarding the INSTRAW Trust Fund for core activities, pledges for 2007, as at 21 May, amount to $402,600 and €60,000, of which $20,617 were received (see annex II). Concerning the INSTRAW Trust Fund for special projects, as at 21 May 2007, an amount of $2,727,000 was pledged and $5,260 received (see annex III). **The Advisory Committee encourages INSTRAW to pursue its efforts to diversify its donor base. In the case of pledged funds, the Committee urges INSTRAW to ascertain, wherever possible, their expected date of receipt and to withdraw from its relevant statements long outstanding pledges unlikely to materialize.**

4. INSTRAW currently provides a series of services in Santo Domingo to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) for its disaster recovery centre. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that MINUSTAH and INSTRAW had signed, in November 2006, a memorandum of understanding providing for the reimbursement to the Institute of a fixed monthly cost of $13,875. Accordingly, MINUSTAH owes $41,625 for services rendered by INSTRAW from December 2006 to February 2007. These funds will be recorded as miscellaneous income.

5. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was also informed that a 4 per cent programme support cost was charged against the Trust Fund for core activities. The amount was being utilized to provide support from Headquarters to process the salary payments of all international staff and to issue allotments to the Institute. Effective September 2005, a 13 per cent programme support cost was being charged against the INSTRAW Trust Fund for special activities. Prior to that date, no programme support cost had been charged against the Trust Fund for special projects owing to the very low level of voluntary contributions received. On 14 May 2007, the Director of INSTRAW had submitted a request to Headquarters that the programme support cost funds charged against the Trust Fund for special activities be used to defray the cost of core activities. That request was currently being analysed. **The Advisory Committee is of the opinion that the decision on this matter should be expedited.**

6. The Advisory Committee notes from table 2 of the report of the Secretary-General the imbalance between contributions for the Institute's core and earmarked special project activities. With regard to core Trust Fund contributions, a total of $6,160 was received and a further $322,100 was pledged. With regard to projects, or earmarked Trust Fund contributions including voluntary funds, a total of $1,077,266 was committed by donors, but has yet to be recorded as pledges in the accounts. **The Advisory Committee notes that the Institute's efforts to increase contributions to the core Trust Fund have so far yielded very little response. The level of earmarked contributions significantly exceeds core contributions. The Committee believes that the extent to which core resources are used to support earmarked projects merits close examination. It considers that the fundamental issues confronting INSTRAW remain unresolved: the requirement to operate**

on the basis of voluntary funding on the one hand and the insufficiency of such funding to date on the other.

Conclusion

7. The Secretary-General indicates in paragraphs 12 and 13 of his report that it is estimated that, with the application of the $190,000 commitment authority approved by the General Assembly in its decision 61/555, an additional commitment of $647,900 would be required to finance the activities of INSTRAW through the end of 2007. The estimated requirements for INSTRAW for 2007 are $90,800 lower than the 2007 initial estimates of $1,589,300 approved by the INSTRAW Executive Board. The $190,000 commitment authority and the additional requirement of $647,900 are over and above the $1,042,200 appropriated under section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 for INSTRAW, which has been transferred to the Trust Fund for core activities.

8. **The Advisory Committee draws attention to the reaffirmation by the General Assembly in paragraph (d) of its decision 61/555 that regular budget resources shall not be used to finance the activities of the Institute, in accordance with articles VI and VII of its statute. The Committee considers that the sustainability of INSTRAW needs to be carefully examined. Furthermore, its budget should be formulated in such a way as to be more closely aligned with the volume of voluntary resources available to it.**

9. **Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Executive Board of INSTRAW would be meeting on 30 May 2007. Subject to approval of the Institute's budget by the Executive Board and the payment of further voluntary contributions, the proposal of the Secretary-General would entail authorizing the Secretary-General, on an exceptional basis, to enter into commitments in the amount of $647,900.**

Annex I

Subventions from the regular budget approved by the General Assembly for the INSTRAW Trust Fund for core activities

(United States dollars)

Year	*Decision/resolution*	*Amount*
2000	—	—
2001	—	—
2002	Decision 55/457	650 000
2003	Decision 57/580, resolution 57/311	500 000
2004	Resolution 58/244 (A/58/649)	—
2005	Resolution 59/260 (A/59/641)	546 200
2006	Resolution 60/247	1 042 200
Total		**2 738 400**

Annex II

Pledges and contributions received for the INSTRAW Trust Fund for core activities (as at 21 May 2007)

Country/ organization	*Contributions pledged, 2006*	*Contributions received, 2006*	*Contributions pledged, 2007*	*Contributions received, 2007*
Barbados	—	$1 000	—	—
Chile	—	$3 000	—	—
China	—	$10 000	—	—
Costa Rica	—	$3 542.08	—	—
Cyprus	—	$2 200	—	—
Dominican Republic	—	$241 263	—	—
Greece	—	$20 000	—	—
India	$1 100	$2 200	$1 100	—
Italy				
Maldives	$500	$7 000	$500	$500
Mexico	—	—	$100 000[a]	—
Morocco	—	$6 000	$1 000	$2 000
Philippines	—	$4 273.55	—	$1 166.71
Spain	—	$76 760.36	€60 000[a]	—
Thailand	—	$6.85	—	$3 010
Tunisia	—	$2 967.96	—	$3 160.3
Turkey	—	$10 000	$300 000	—
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	—	—	—	$5 520
Universidad Complutense de Madrid				$5 260
Total	**$1 600**	**$390 213.8**	**$402 600 €60 000**	**$20 617.01**

[a] Not yet recorded as a pledge.

Annex III

Pledges and contributions received for the INSTRAW Trust Fund for special projects

(United States dollars)

Country/ organization	*Project title*	*Contributions pledged, 2006*	*Contributions received, 2006*	*Contributions pledged, 2007*	*Contributions received, 2007*	*Contributions pledged, 2008*	*Contributions pledged, 2009*	*Contributions pledged, 2010*
Spain	Political participation of women at the local level in Central American countries and the Andean countries	636 050	636 050	650 000		650 000	650 000	650 000
International Fund for Agricultural Development	Gender remittances: the case of Filipino migrants in Italy	94 800	94 800	63 200				
South Africa	Training activities on HIV/AIDS in Africa	16 032	16 032					
Spain	Political participation of women in Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco			390 000		390 000		
Mexico	Institutional development	100 000	100 000					
Spain/Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional	Migration					292 500	292 500	
Spain	Women's migration and global care chains in Ecuador, Bolivia, Peru and Spain			603 000				
United Nations Development Programme	Enhance gender-responsive local development by promoting options in the utilization of remittances for sustainable livelihoods and building social capital			352 800				
Universidad Complutense de Madrid	Universidad Complutense de Madrid				5 260			
Department of Economic and Social Affairs-Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues	Engaging indigenous women: local government capacity-building through new technologies in Latin America			6 000			20 000	

Country/ organization	*Project title*	*Contributions pledged, 2006*	*Contributions received, 2006*	*Contributions pledged, 2007*	*Contributions received, 2007*	*Contributions pledged, 2008*	*Contributions pledged, 2009*	*Contributions pledged, 2010*
United Nations Development Programme	Political participation of women in political parties in the Dominican Republic			60 000				
Italy	Strengthening the cooperation and dialogue between women's organizations in Africa and Latin America			402 000				
United Nations Population Fund	Gender remittances: case study in Guatemala		30 000					
United Nations Population Fund	Gender remittances: case study in southern Africa		50 000					
Norway	Gender and security sector reform in Haiti			50 000				
Department of Peacekeeping Operations/Logistics Support Division	Attracting and retaining Professional women in logistics support for United Nations peacekeeping operations		35 030					
Inter-American Development Bank	Remittances and gender for local development in the Dominican Republic			150 000				
Total		**846 882**	**961 912**	**2 727 000**	**5 260**	**1 332 500**	**962 500**	**650 000**

United Nations A/61/925–S/2007/310

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
25 May 2007

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-first session
Agenda items 13 and 14

The situation in the Middle East

Question of Palestine

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Letter dated 24 May 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Acting Chair of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement, I have the honour to enclose herewith the communiqué on the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, adopted on Thursday, 24 May 2007 (see annex).

Furthermore, I kindly request that the above-mentioned document be circulated as a document of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 13 and 14, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ileana **Núñez Mordoche**
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations
Acting Chair of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement

07-35984 (E) 300507

Annex to the letter dated 24 May 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Communiqué by the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement on the Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

The Non-Aligned Movement expresses its grave concern at the deterioration of the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and condemns in specific the recent aggression by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian civilian population. Intense military attacks by the Israeli occupying forces, particularly against civilian areas throughout the Gaza Strip, have resulted in the killing and injuring of dozens of Palestinians, including children, and widespread destruction of property. This excessive and indiscriminate use of force by the occupying Power against civilians constitutes a grave breach of international humanitarian law and threatens to completely destabilize the fragile and tense situation on the ground and worsen the already dire humanitarian conditions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

The Non-Aligned Movement demands the immediate cessation of these military attacks by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people. Further, the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement calls upon both sides to abide by the ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, and to immediately extend it to the West Bank, in order to bring an end to the cycle of violence and promote calm.

The Non-Aligned Movement calls upon the Security Council, which is the organ entrusted with the maintenance of international peace and security, to assume its responsibilities to help bring an immediate cessation of this latest Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people and to consider mechanisms for the maintenance of the ceasefire. In this regard, the Non-Aligned Movement urges the Security Council to seriously consider the deployment of observers to monitor respect of the ceasefire.

The Non-Aligned Movement urges all concerned parties to exert the necessary efforts to work together to stop the bloodletting and destruction and the continuing deterioration of this crisis. The cessation of this grave situation is imperative for preserving the hopes for peace that have recently arisen, in particular following the renewal of the important Arab Peace Initiative, and promoting the calm and stability needed for the pursuit of a peaceful, just and final settlement to this tragic conflict.

United Nations A/61/926–S/2007/309

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
25 May 2007

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-first session
Agenda items 13 and 14

The situation in the Middle East

Question of Palestine

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Letter dated 24 May 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Chairman of the Organization of the Islamic Conference Group at the United Nations in New York, I have the honour to transmit herewith a communiqué issued by the Group on 24 May 2007 concerning the serious developments in the occupied Palestinian territory (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex were to be urgently distributed as a document of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 13 and 14, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Munir **Akram**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

07-35990 (E) 300507

Annex to the letter dated 24 May 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Communiqué on the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem

The Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Group expresses its grave concern at the deterioration of the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and condemns in specific the recent aggression by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian civilian population. Intense military attacks by the Israeli occupying forces, particularly against civilian areas throughout the Gaza Strip, have resulted in the killing and injuring of dozens of Palestinians, including children, and widespread destruction of property. This excessive and indiscriminate use of force by Israel, the occupying Power, against Palestinian civilians constitutes a grave breach of international humanitarian law and threatens to completely destabilize the already fragile and tense situation on the ground and worsen the dire humanitarian conditions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

The OIC Group demands the immediate cessation of these military attacks by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people. Further, the OIC Group calls upon both sides to abide by the ceasefire in the Gaza Strip and to immediately extend it to the West Bank in order to bring an end to the cycle of violence and promote calm.

The OIC Group calls upon the Security Council, which is the organ entrusted with the maintenance of the peace and security, to assume its responsibilities to help bring an immediate cessation of this latest Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people and to consider mechanisms for the maintenance of the ceasefire. In this regard, the OIC Group urges the Security Council to seriously consider the deployment of observers to monitor respect of the ceasefire.

The OIC Group urges all concerned parties to exert the necessary efforts to work together to stop the bloodletting and destruction and the continuing deterioration of this crisis. The cessation of this grave situation is imperative for preserving the hopes for peace that have recently arisen, in particular following the renewal of the important Arab Peace Initiative, and promoting the calm and stability needed for the pursuit of a peaceful, just and final settlement to this tragic conflict.

United Nations A/61/927–S/2007/312

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
29 May 2007

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-first session
Agenda item 83
Maintenance of international security — good-neighbourliness, stability and development in South-Eastern Europe

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Letter dated 25 May 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Serbia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 25 May 2007 from Mr. Vuk Jeremić, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, addressed to you (see annex). Enclosed with the letter is a document entitled "Initiative of the Republic of Serbia to Commence a New Stage of Negotiations on the Status of Kosovo and Metohija" (see enclosure).

In forwarding the said documents, I would appreciate it if you would bring them to the attention of the Security Council and have them circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 83, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Pavle **Jevremović**

07-36059 (E) 300507

Annex to the letter dated 25 May 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Serbia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Republic of Serbia remains fully committed to finding a peaceful, lasting and comprehensive solution to the future status of Kosovo and Metohija, rooted in the fundamental principles and norms of international law. In the interest of advancing this long-held commitment, I have the pleasure to submit to you the Republic of Serbia's Initiative to Commence a New Stage of Negotiations on the Status of Kosovo and Metohija (see enclosure). I kindly request that the text of the initiative be circulated as a document of the General Assembly and, of the Security Council.

I further request that, taking the initiative into account, you propose an appropriate procedure for the conduct of this new stage of status negotiations, bearing in mind the importance of finding a mutually agreed upon solution to the status of Kosovo and Metohija for the long-term stability and prosperity of the Republic of Serbia and all the Western Balkans.

(*Signed*) Vuk **Jeremić**
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Enclosure

Initiative of the Republic of Serbia to Commence a New Stage of Negotiations on the Status of Kosovo and Metohija

Proceeding from the generally accepted fact that the negotiations on the future status of Kosovo and Metohija, conducted between 21 February 2006 and 10 March 2007, did not result in an agreed-upon proposed solution,

Taking into account the content of the Comprehensive Status Settlement Proposal for Kosovo, submitted to the United Nations Secretary-General by his Special Envoy for the future status process for Kosovo and Metohija, Mr. Martti Ahtisaari, as well as the fact that the Comprehensive Proposal for Kosovo and Metohija Status Settlement is totally unacceptable to the Republic of Serbia, as can be seen through the clearly articulated position of the Republic of Serbia and the large number of proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Proposal submitted by the negotiating team of the Republic of Serbia,

Bearing in mind, moreover, the substantive objections of the Republic of Serbia on the manner in which the negotiations were conducted, itself an important reason for their failure,

Drawing the attention of all Member States of the United Nations and international public opinion to the clearly intended outcome of the Comprehensive Proposal, namely the violation of the Charter of the United Nations and relevant Security Council resolutions (1160 (1998), 1199 (1998), 1203 (1998), adopted in 1998, and 1239 (1999) and 1244 (1999), both adopted in 1999), by proposing the granting of independence to a province that is an integral part of the Republic of Serbia, a democratic, internationally recognized State and a Member of the United Nations,

Calling on all international actors to contribute to a peaceful, lasting, sustainable and comprehensive solution to the issue of Kosovo and Metohija on the basis of the principles, norms and good practices of international law, on which the present-day international order is based,

The Government of the Republic of Serbia presents an initiative to commence a new stage of negotiations between representatives of the Republic of Serbia and the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government in Kosovo and Metohija.

The main objective of this new stage of negotiations is to reach a compromise solution to the status of Kosovo and Metohija between interested parties. Such a solution, together with international mediation, would guarantee the long-term stability of the region and would fulfil the conditions for its unimpeded economic and social development.

In order for this goal to be achieved, it is necessary to establish a good negotiating environment, propose the appropriate procedure and allow for an appropriate time frame that does not artificially impose time limits.

In proposing this initiative, the Republic of Serbia, aware of the historic importance of a just settlement of the issue, stands ready to fully accept its share of responsibility for the successful conduct and conclusion of negotiations.

United Nations A/61/928–S/2007/311

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
29 May 2007
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Sixty-first session
Agenda item 13
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Identical letters dated 25 May 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On the instructions of my Government, I transmit to you herewith a statistical summary of Israeli violations that took place between 15 and 21 May 2007 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 13, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Caroline **Ziade**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

07-36130 (E) 310507 310507

Annex to the identical letters dated 25 May 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Subject: Israeli violations, acts of aggression and activities from 15 to 21 May 2007 inclusive

Air violations

On 15 May 2007, between 1019 hours and 1330 hours, an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off al-Naqurah and circled over the South region. It then departed Lebanese airspace over `Alma al-Sha`b.

Between 1144 hours and 1227 hours, four Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace over Rumaysh and circled over areas of the western Bekaa, the Shuf and the South. They then departed Lebanese airspace over `Alma al-Sha`b.

On 17 May 2007, between 1720 hours and 1735 hours, an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the Sixth Brigade sector (western sector) south of the Litani at high altitude.

On 19 May 2007, between 1022 hours and 1125 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the Shab`a farmlands. It went as far as Jubb Jannin in the western Bekaa and then headed west and circled overland between the Western Bekaa and southern border and up to 10 miles over the sea. It headed north as far as Shikka, and then returned in a southerly direction. It departed Lebanese airspace over al-Naqurah.

Between 1220 hours and 1335 hours, two Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace over Kafr Kila in a northerly direction as far as Tripoli. They then headed east as far as al-Qurnah al-Sawda' and circled over areas of the North, and then headed south and circled over areas of the South. They departed Lebanese airspace over `Alma al-Sha`b.

At 2159 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off al-Naqurah in a northerly direction as far as al-Na`imah and circled over the Na`imah and Damur areas. It headed north as far as Juniyah and then returned in a southerly direction and circled over areas of the South. It departed Lebanese airspace on 20 May 2007 at 0055 hours over al-Naqurah.

At 1630 hours on 20 May 2007, Israeli military aircraft overflew the Bint Jubayl area at high altitude.

On 20 May 2007, between 1620 hours and 1640 hours, two enemy Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off Tripoli and then headed in a southerly direction. They departed Lebanese airspace over Bint Jubayl.

On 21 May 2007, 23 enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace and circled over the areas of Shikka, al-Arz, Batrun, Tayy al-Jawz, al-Harmal, Baalbek, Iqlim al-Kharub, Sidon and Tyre. They all departed Lebanese airspace over al-Naqurah with the exception of four aircraft over Rumaysh and two over `Alma al-Sha`b. Their activity was as follows:

At 0525 hours, four planes overflew Juniyah and two overflew Batrun. At 0650 hours, two planes overflew the sea off Shikka. At 0815 hours, five planes overflew the sea off Batrun. At 0943 hours, two planes overflew the sea off Tyre. At 1234 hours, four planes overflew Kafr Kila. At 2030 hours, two planes overflew the sea off Sidon. At 2350 hours, two planes overflew the sea off Tyre.

Sea violations

None reported.

Acts of aggression in the field

On 16 May 2007, at 0500 hours, the Israeli enemy abducted a Lebanese civilian, Hisham Dalli, from inside Lebanese territory one kilometre from the Radar position (in the occupied Shab'a farmlands). He was detained and interrogated, and then handed over to Lebanese authorities through UNIFIL on 17 May 2007 at 0759 hours.

On 17 May 2007, at 1850 hours, an enemy Israeli patrol in the Misgav Am settlement took three photographs of the Lebanese Army observation post in al-'Adaysah. It departed thereafter in the direction of said settlement.

On 19 May 2007, at 1845 hours, an Israeli patrol stopped opposite the Tall al-Ghabayin position west of al-Dahayrah and proceeded to photograph Lebanese Army position personnel.

United Nations A/61/929–S/2007/313

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
29 May 2007
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Sixty-first session
Agenda item 13
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Identical letters dated 28 May 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On the instructions of my Government, I transmit to you herewith a statistical summary of Israeli violations that took place on 21 and 22 May 2007 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 13, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Caroline **Ziade**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

07-36165 (E) 310507 310507

Annex to the identical letters dated 28 May 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statistical summary of Israeli violations on 21 and 22 May 2007

At 1200 hours on 21 May 2007, in the town of al-Bazuriyah in the Tyre area, a cluster bomb left behind by the Israeli enemy exploded, resulting in injury to Jamil Husni Jaffal, who was subsequently taken to the Jabal `Amil hospital.

At 2130 hours on 21 May 2007, enemy Israeli aircraft overflew Bint Jubayl at high altitude.

At 2150 hours on 21 May 2007, enemy Israeli aircraft overflew Tibnin at medium altitude.

At 0015 hours on 22 May 2007, enemy Israeli aircraft overflew Hasbaya at medium altitude.

At 0100 hours on 22 May 2007, enemy Israeli aircraft overflew Jiba` at high altitude.

At 0930 hours on 22 May 2007, enemy Israeli aircraft overflew Tyre at medium altitude.

At 0940 hours on 22 May 2007, a reconnaissance aircraft belonging to the Israeli enemy overflew Tibnin at medium altitude.

At 1000 hours on 22 May 2007, enemy Israeli aircraft overflew Marj`ayun, Tibnin and Bint Jubayl at medium altitude.

At 1130 hours on 22 May 2007, enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew Jiba` and Hasbaya at high altitude.

At 1330 hours on 22 May 2007, on the outskirts of the town of `Ayta al-Sha`b at the Khillat Wardah location on the border with occupied Palestine inside the Bint Jubayl detachment zone, the sound of an explosion of indeterminate cause was heard.

At 1530 hours on 22 May 2007, at the edge of the town of Shab`a in the area around `Ayn al-Jawz, Lebanese Army Corps of Engineers personnel detonated cluster bombs left behind by the Israeli enemy in Hasbaya.

At 1615 hours on 22 May 2007, a reconnaissance aircraft belonging to the Israeli enemy overflew Tibnin at medium altitude.

United Nations A/61/930–S/2007/316

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
29 May 2007

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-first session
Agenda items 13 and 14

The situation in the Middle East

Question of Palestine

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Identical letters dated 29 May 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I write to inform you of the highly disturbing barrage of rockets launched by Palestinian terrorists in the Gaza Strip during the past week.

From Monday, 21 May 2007, until Sunday, 27 May 2007, 86 Qassam rockets and 17 mortar shells were fired by Palestinian terrorists at Israeli communities in the south.

Over the course of the week, two Israeli civilians were killed by Palestinian rockets. Another civilian sustained serious injury; six others were lightly injured. In the aftermath of the attacks, countless civilians were treated for trauma and shock.

Numerous private homes and automobiles were damaged and destroyed by the falling rockets. Additionally, the rockets caused damage to a synagogue, a gas depot and an industrial complex in Sderot.

In the last two weeks more than 200 rockets have been fired from the Gaza Strip by Palestinian terrorists. Israel will not tolerate these relentless attacks. Israel reserves the right to exercise and act in self-defence, as any other nation would if faced with this intolerable situation.

Hamas, which leads the Palestinian Authority, must relinquish its terrorist platform and embrace its responsibilities as enumerated by the Quartet, to recognize Israel, renounce violence and terror and abide by previous agreements. Israel urges the international community to do everything in its power to support an end to Palestinian terror against Israel.

07-36159 (E) 310507

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter as a document of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 13 and 14, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dan **Gillerman**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations A/61/931–S/2007/317

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
29 May 2007

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-first session
Agenda item 19
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Letter dated 25 May 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I would like to bring to your attention recent violations of international aviation regulations and of the national airspace of Cyprus by the Turkish air force. In an incident that went even beyond the perturbing pattern of the ongoing, constant and intentional violations of the Nicosia Flight Information Region and the sovereign airspace of Cyprus, the Turkish navy and air force carried out, between 2 and 5 May 2007, a military exercise using live ammunition in the areas adjacent to the southern territorial waters of Cyprus. The said exercise was carried out without prior sharing of any information or coordination to this effect.

In addition to the underlying philosophy of intimidation and political provocation, such violations of air traffic regulations by Turkey, pose a threat to civil aviation whereas the participation of war crafts in such proximity to the territorial waters of a port State poses a threat to the safety of navigation.

Without doubting the right of a sovereignty State to conduct military exercises, it is unknown practice to us that a country should choose an area unrelated to its geography and interests to carry out such exercises. In either case, if a country whose waters border only Cyprus northern waters is found to be carrying out military exercises just outside Cyprus southern territorial waters without prior notification, would one be at fault in interpreting such action as hostile?

My Government is left with the issue of exploitation of natural resources as the only possible explanation for the intensification of provocations of this kind by the Turkish military forces. I should like to record these with you and the Security Council, to be added to the ample evidence of Charter violations by a Member of the United Nations, and deterioration of regional security in the Eastern Mediterranean.

I would be grateful if the present letter was circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 19, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Andreas D. **Mavroyiannis**

07-36319 (E) 310507

United Nations A/61/932–S/2007/318

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
30 May 2007
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Sixty-first session
Agenda item 13
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Identical letters dated 30 May 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government I transmit to you herewith the statement by the Prime Minister, Mr. Fouad Siniora, concerning events in both the Nahr al-Barid camp and Tripoli, in the north of Lebanon, and developments in the situation, with regard to all security and humanitarian concerns (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly under agenda item 13, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Caroline **Ziade**
Charge d'affaires a.i.

07-36376 (E) 010607 010607

Annex to the identical letters dated 30 May 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement by His Excellency the Prime Minister, Mr. Fouad Siniora

28 May 2007

On Saturday 10 May, elements of Fatah al-Islam attacked Lebanese Army sites in Tripoli and brutally killed 32 soldiers, most of whom were off duty at the time. On the basis of investigations and the confessions of some suspects who were arrested, it appears that Fatah al-Islam is behind the terrorist bombings of two buses in the 'Ayn 'Alaq area on 12 February, leading to the death of a number of civilians. It also appears that this organization is responsible for several thefts. The recent clashes coincided with three explosions last week in Beirut and Aley, and preliminary investigations indicate the possible involvement of the same organization.

This is not a war between Lebanon and the Palestinians: it is a war that has been launched against the Lebanese and the Palestinians equally. We are responding to an extremist group known by the name of Fatah al-Islam, the ranks of which include terrorists of various nationalities who entered Lebanon surreptitiously and assembled in the Nahr al-Barid camp, which they used as a base for their operations and effectively took over, against the will of the residents. The Palestinian people inside the camp, who asked repeatedly to leave the area, were, in effect, taken hostage. The Lebanese and Palestinian peoples were victims of the practices and creed of this malicious group. It should be noted that the objectives and aspirations of this group bear no relation to Islam or Palestine.

The Palestinian Authority and the other Palestinian factions have openly condemned Fatah al-Islam and emphasized that there is no relation between it and Palestinian organizations operating in Palestine. Moreover, the different Palestinian factions have all publicly disavowed this terrorist group and, from the beginning, condemned the aggression to which the Lebanese army was subjected. Furthermore, they are committed to helping the Lebanese Government eliminate this phenomenon.

The League of Arab States and the United Nations Security Council have both issued strong statements in support of the efforts of the Lebanese Government. Both statements described the organization which Lebanon is confronting precisely as a terrorist organization, with no relation to Islam or the Palestinian cause.

With the assistance of local Palestinian groups, we have requested Fatah al-Islam to surrender and undergo a fair trial, instead of causing further confrontations and violence.

The Lebanese Government emphasizes its full commitment to the just Palestinian cause as well as its solidarity with the Palestinian people. Since it was formed, the present Government has made serious efforts to improve the living standards of Palestinian refugees in camps throughout Lebanon and has also worked hard to ensure the support of the international community for its plan to improve

conditions in those camps. Unfortunately, Fatah al-Islam has obstructed these efforts through destabilizing and exacerbating conditions in the camps.

We are concerned about the humanitarian situation in the Nahr al-Barid camp and have taken the necessary steps to address this situation, by seeking to suspend hostilities and allow civilians to leave the camp. Moreover, we are employing the utmost caution in dealing with the situation, in order to avoid any unnecessary loss of life. However, it should be pointed out that Fatah al-Islam elements are firing from civilian areas and their snipers are targeting any civilian who attempts to leave the camp; the intention here is clearly to use refugees as human shields, contrary to ethical standards and the most basic principles of human rights and international humanitarian law.

According to our sources and those of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), it appears that the great majority of residents have in fact left the camp and are being taken care of by the various organs of the Lebanese Government, which has mobilized all of its human and material resources in order to provide aid to persons displaced from the locations where they sought refuge in the camps and the neighbouring areas. We are also working to send humanitarian supplies to those refugees who remain inside the camp.

The international community today is called upon more than ever before to address its responsibilities towards the Palestinian refugees and Palestinian refugee camps. In the present situation it must fulfil its obligations, with our great appreciation, to provide humanitarian support in order to reduce the severity of the situation of the innocent civilians who are suffering as a result of these regrettable events.

We are fighting the terrorists in order to protect Lebanon and ensure the peace and security of all Lebanese, Palestinians and others living in Lebanon. No State in the world can allow its army and citizens to be the target of attacks, which can only be described as barbaric, within its borders, in particular by foreign fighters who have entered the country surreptitiously. The Lebanese Government and the Lebanese Army is making the utmost effort to address this threat decisively and cautiously. Any alternative to this decisive approach would have very serious consequences for Lebanon and the region, and could result in Lebanon becoming fertile ground for every terrorist or outlaw in the world. Lebanon rejects and condemns terrorism wherever it occurs and will not tolerate terrorism on its territory, under any circumstances.

With the backing and support of all sectors of the Lebanese people, the Lebanese army remains the sole legitimate authority with the right to use force as a last resort in order to defend the country's stability and the security of its citizens. Lebanon will not be a land of lawbreaking and impunity. Lebanon suffered for 40 years because of hesitation, disregard and interference in its affairs. We will maintain our position and emphasize that our country will remain a free, sovereign and stable land in which citizens enjoy security and the rule of law. We also mention the heritage of Lebanon and its commitment to the principles of coexistence, plurality, freedom, democracy, tolerance, openness and moderation. We will live up to the present letter.

United Nations A/61/933–S/2007/319

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
30 May 2007
English
Original: Spanish

General Assembly
Sixty-first session
Agenda items 98, 99 and 100

Crime prevention and criminal justice

International drug control

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Letter dated 29 May 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I transmit to you herewith the Declaration of Santo Domingo, adopted in the Dominican Republic at the Ministerial Conference on International Cooperation against Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime, held from 19 to 22 March 2007 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 98, 99 and 100, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Erasmo **Lara-Peña**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

07-36428 (E) 010607 200607

Annex to the letter dated 29 May 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and Spanish]

Declaration of Santo Domingo

Santo Domingo, 22 March 2007

The delegations of Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago, participating in the Ministerial Conference on International Cooperation against Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime (hereafter referred to as the Ministerial Conference), meeting in Santo Domingo from 19 to 22 March 2007;

Noting with appreciation the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism of the Organization of American States (OAS/CICTE), in organizing this Conference, and also appreciating the work of the UNODC regional office for Central America and the Caribbean, based in Mexico;

Recognizing also the presence of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), the 1267 Committee Monitoring Team, INTERPOL, the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (ILANUD), as well as the experts of the Departments of Justice of the United States and Canada and the New Scotland Yard of the United Kingdom;

Expressing appreciation for the work of the UNODC Terrorism Prevention Branch, the Secretariat of CICTE of the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Commonwealth Secretariat in the provision of technical assistance and capacity-building to support criminal justice systems in order to enable them to fulfil the obligations deriving from the relevant universal anti-terrorism instruments,[1] and the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism;

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[1] Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft (1963); Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft (1970); Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation (1971); Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents (1973); International Convention against the Taking of Hostages (1979); Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (1980); Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation, Supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation (1988); Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (1988); Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf (1988); Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection (1991); International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombing (1997); International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (1999); International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (2005); Protocol to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (2005); Protocol to the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms located on the Continental Shelf (2005); Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (2005).

Emphasizing the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the United Nations Security Council and of its Executive Directorate relating to the evaluation of the implementation of resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2004) and its functions with regard to the coordination of technical assistance and the promotion of best practices in combating terrorism;

Reaffirming, in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1566 (2004) the clear condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations; whatever its origin or motivation, in accordance with the principles of general international law, especially the Charter of the United Nations, international conventions and other instruments; and likewise condemns, in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1624 (2005), incitement to commit terrorist acts;

Reaffirming also their commitments as members of OAS/CICTE, in accordance with the Charter of OAS and the resolutions and declarations of CICTE and the OAS General Assembly, to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism in the hemisphere;

Reaffirming also that it is important for States to ensure that all anti-terrorism measures adopted are in conformity with the obligations of international humanitarian, refugee and human rights law;

Noting the adoption of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism on 13 April 2005 and its opening for signature and ratification at the 2005 World Summit, as well as the adoption of the Protocol to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation; Protocol to the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms located on the Continental Shelf, and the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, adopted in 2005;

Reaffirming United Nations General Assembly resolution (60/288) on the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy adopted on 8 September 2006, enhancing the overall framework for the efforts of the international community to effectively counter the scourge of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;

Emphasizing the need to become parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto;

Stressing the importance of the Declaration of Panama on the Protection of Critical Infrastructure in the Hemisphere in the Face of Terrorism, adopted at the Seventh Regular Session of the OAS Inter-American Committee against Terrorism, held in Panama City, from 28 February to 2 March 2007;

Taking note of the "Declaration of Santo Domingo", adopted by the Heads of State and Governments participating at the Regional Summit on Drugs, Security and Cooperation, held in the Dominican Republic on 16 March 2007, which reaffirmed their political will and commitment to cooperate in the fight against drugs and crime;

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 61/40 in which it requests the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Vienna to continue its efforts to enhance, through its mandate, the capabilities of the United Nations in the prevention of terrorism, and recognizes, in the context of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and United

Nations Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), its role in assisting States in becoming parties to and implementing the relevant international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism, and in strengthening international cooperation mechanisms in criminal matters related to terrorism, including through national capacity-building;

Declare:

1. The importance for participating States, which have not yet done so, to become party to the universal anti-terrorism instruments, the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism, and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto;

2. The need for participating States, which have not yet done so, to enact the necessary domestic legislation for the effective implementation of the universal instruments aimed at combating terrorism and transnational organized crime, in particular the aspects relating to the criminalization of acts, the exercise of jurisdiction and international judicial cooperation;

3. The reaffirmation of the importance of the principle of due process and respect for human rights in criminal proceedings relating to terrorism and transnational organized crime and the need to ensure the protection of victims;

4. Their appeal to the United Nations and other relevant international, regional and subregional organizations to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy at the international, regional and subregional levels, including the mobilization of human and material resources;

5. Their request to the UNODC, including its Terrorism Prevention Branch and its relevant regional offices, to strengthen and sustain the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, within its mandates;

6. Their commitment to:

(a) Continue promoting regional cooperation through CICTE, as the counter-terrorism body for the OAS member States, and to collaborate with the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001), with the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) and with the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), of the United Nations Security Council;

(b) Continue adopting the necessary measures to ensure the most comprehensive and effective mutual legal assistance in connection with criminal investigations or proceedings aimed at combating terrorism and transnational organized crime so as to comply with the treaties, including the gathering of necessary evidence in such proceedings;

(c) Strengthen cooperation among the competent agencies, in particular through multilateral or bilateral arrangements for the prevention and suppression of terrorist attacks, in accordance with the relevant provisions of United Nations Security Council resolution 1373 (2001);

(d) Strengthen national, subregional, regional and international coordination and cooperation measures and mechanisms to combat transnational organized crime, in particular illicit drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, illicit manufacturing of

and trafficking in firearms, including small arms and light weapons, and money-laundering;

(e) Urge the international community to provide technical and financial assistance so as to enhance criminal investigations and prosecutions;

7. Their request to those participating States, which have not yet done so, to submit to UNODC the replies to the questionnaires on the application of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and to the questionnaires on the application of the Protocols thereto, in accordance with the decisions taken by the Conference of Parties to the Convention at its various sessions;

8. Their invitation to donor countries and international and regional organizations to provide technical, financial and material assistance to support the efforts of the participating States with a view to becoming parties to and implementing the relevant universal anti-terrorism instruments, the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and the Protocols thereto;

9. Their willingness to make full use of the mechanisms provided for by Interpol to fight transnational organized crime and terrorism, by utilizing Interpol's I-24/7 global police communication system and Interpol's databases, including the Stolen and Lost Travel Documents database, and by providing effective and appropriate response to Interpol's red notices and to Interpol — United Nations Security Council special notices;

10. Their request to:

(a) UNODC and the OAS/CICTE, to continue providing technical assistance to the participating States with a view to their becoming party to and implementing the relevant universal anti-terrorism instruments, the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and the Protocols thereto;

(b) UNODC, in close cooperation with the CTC, CTED and other relevant United Nations Security Council Committees, to provide bilateral technical assistance to requesting Caribbean countries in the preparation and submission of their reports to the United Nations Security Council Committees, and to this end, consider organizing reporting workshops, in close cooperation with the OAS-CICTE and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM);

(c) UNODC to increase its technical assistance and, together with the OAS and the Commonwealth Secretariat, continue implementing existing training programmes for judicial and law enforcement authorities involved in implementing the universal anti-terrorism instruments, the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism, and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, as well as programmes aimed at national legislatures, and develop other appropriate training programmes;

11. Their appreciation for the technical assistance tools developed by UNODC[2] and other international organizations, and their intention to use them in efforts to prevent and suppress international terrorism and transnational organized crime;

12. Their satisfaction with the development and dissemination of OAS/CICTE's "Practical Guide to the Prevention, Detection and Suppression of Terrorist Financing (2006)";

13. Their support for the decisions adopted in the "Declaration of Santo Domingo" by the Heads of State and Governments at the Regional Summit on Drugs, Security and Cooperation, held in the Dominican Republic on 16 March 2007;

The participating Delegations express their sincere thanks and appreciation to the Government of the Dominican Republic for having hosted and supported this Ministerial Conference, held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, from 19 to 22 March 2007, to the UNODC and OAS/CICTE, which jointly organized this Conference, and thank the Governments of Canada and the United States for their generous contribution to the UNODC and OAS/CICTE, respectively, which enabled the organization of this Conference.

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[2] Such as: the Legislative Guide to the Universal Anti-Terrorism Conventions and Protocols; Guide for the Legislative Incorporation and Implementation of the Universal Instruments against Terrorism; Legislative Guide for the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; Legislative Guide for the Implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children; Legislative Guide for the Implementation of the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air; Legislative Guide for the Implementation of the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition; UNODC Model Law on Extradition; Report of the Informal Expert Working Group on Mutual Legal Assistance Case Work Best Practice; Report of the Informal Expert Working Group on Effective Extradition Case Work Practice; Model Law on Mutual Legal Assistance on Criminal Matters; Revised Manuals on the Model Treaty on Extradition and on the Model Treaty of Legal Assistance on Criminal Matters; Electronic Legal Resources Database on International Terrorism; Mutual Legal Assistance Request Writer Tool; and Manual on Witness Protection; Preventing Terrorist Acts: A Criminal Justice Strategy integrating Rule of Law Standards and Implementations of United Nations anti-terrorist Instruments. In preparation: Manual on Judicial International Cooperation against Terrorism; the Emerging International Legal Framework for Combating Nuclear Terrorism.

United Nations A/61/934–S/2007/326

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
1 June 2007

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-first session
Agenda item 26
Report of the Peacebuilding Commission

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Identical letters dated 30 May 2007 from the Chairman of the Peacebuilding Commission addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you the report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its mission to Burundi, which was conducted from 9 to 15 April 2007 (PBC/1/BDI/2).

In his letter dated 21 June 2006, the President of the Security Council requested the advice of the Peacebuilding Commission on the situations in Burundi and Sierra Leone. In its report on its mission to Burundi, the Commission has summarized, in particular, the gaps in terms of meeting peacebuilding priorities that continue to constitute obstacles to longer-term development in Burundi, and has also highlighted the important progress that the country has made towards achieving sustainable peace.

The mission was conducted to obtain first-hand information about the situation in the country and assess challenges to peacebuilding; discuss with the Government and other stakeholders gaps within priority areas for peacebuilding; agree on the development of an integrated peacebuilding strategy; and communicate to stakeholders on the ground the main principles and purposes of the Peacebuilding Commission.

The mission identified a number of priorities for peacebuilding, notably the implementation of the 2006 ceasefire agreement with Palipehutu-FNL; the establishment of transitional justice mechanisms and the consolidation of inclusive and participatory governance; ensuring the full participation of civil society; the need for additional resources for the implementation of critical interventions in priority areas across all sectors; the need to build national capacity in all sectors; and the need to ensure that the basic social and economic rights of all, particularly those of vulnerable women and youth, are fulfilled in order to meaningfully engage the population in peacebuilding efforts in the priority areas.

The mission also noted that the Government of Burundi, with the support of the international community, has undertaken a number of steps to address the

07-36739 (E) 110607

remaining challenges. In order to ensure that the engagement of the Peacebuilding Commission with Burundi enhances the peace consolidation efforts, the Government of Burundi and the Commission agreed to develop a strategic framework as a medium-term framework for cooperation. The strategic framework will serve as a framework for mutual accountability and will track commitments and actions to be undertaken by the Government and its partners in the pursuit of sustainable peace.

The support of the General Assembly and the Security Council for the development of the strategic framework and its implementation will be critical for its success. The Assembly and the Council may wish to call on all stakeholders, including the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi, as well as international partners, to fully engage in the process of the development of the strategic framework and its timely implementation.

The round table that was held in Bujumbura on 24 and 25 May 2007 marked a critical milestone for the country and offered the international community an opportunity to renew its commitments to supporting the recovery, reconstruction and development of Burundi. Every effort was made to encourage all stakeholders in Burundi to participate and a successful outcome of the round table was achieved.

The completion of the Commission's first field missions marks a new stage in its work to ensure sustainable peace in the countries with which it is engaged, including through the establishment of integrated peacebuilding strategies, and provides an opportunity to update the members of the General Assembly and Security Council on developments and progress achieved to date.

As we begin the task of drafting the first annual report of the Peacebuilding Commission, let me assure you of our commitment to keep the General Assembly, the Security Council and other United Nations bodies abreast of our deliberations.

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 26, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ismael Abraão Gaspar **Martins**
Chairman of the Peacebuilding Commission

United Nations A/61/935–S/2007/325

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
31 May 2007

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-first session
Agenda items 13 and 66

The situation in the Middle East

Right of peoples to self-determination

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Note verbale dated 31 May 2007 from the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, with reference to its note dated 6 January 2007, has the honour to attach a letter concerning the health situation of Mr. Saitan Nemr Al-Wali, a Syrian detainee in the Nafha Israeli prison (see annex).

It would be greatly appreciated if the present note and its annex were circulated as a document of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly under agenda items 13 and 66, and of the Security Council.

07-36684 (E) 040607 050607

Annex to the note verbale dated 31 May 2007 from the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

I am writing to you to inform you of the circumstances of the arbitrary and illegal detention of Saytan Nimr al-Waliy, a Syrian prisoner from the occupied Syrian Golan, who is being held in solitary confinement in the Israeli Nafha prison. He was sentenced to 27 years in prison on the charge of refusing Israeli identity and insisting on retaining his Syrian citizenship.

As you know, the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Geneva Conventions of 1949, and relevant United Nations resolutions, in particular Security Council resolution 497 (1981), which deemed the annexation by Israel, the occupying Power, of the Syrian Golan and efforts to alter its character null and void — all these obligate Israel not to expose the inhabitants of the occupied territory to any threat and to comply with the binding rules of international law in this regard. Consequently, Israeli practices in this context violate the Charter of the United Nations, basic human rights principles and Security Council resolutions, and Israel is therefore accountable for them under the Charter.

The health condition of prisoner Saytan Nimr al-Waliy is cause for extreme concern. He has spent 22 years in Israeli detention being slowly murdered through the deliberate neglect of his health situation by the prison administration. He has now become swollen and unable to walk or even speak, and is currently living on artificial respiration.

My delegation calls on you, and through you on the United Nations and relevant bodies, to pressure Israel to provide necessary treatment to the prisoner immediately and to allow representatives of the International Red Cross, accompanied by doctors qualified to monitor his health condition, to visit him with a view to his release, along with 20 other comrades who have been held in Israeli prisons for more or less 22 years and who are also suffering from extremely serious medical conditions. We recall in this regard the inhumane detention conditions that led to the death of Syrian prisoner Hayil Abu Zayd in 2005 after the United Nations and International Committee of the Red Cross obtained his release from prison.

Practices violating all humanitarian standards that are being perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power, in many areas of the Syrian Golan, including arbitrary detention and unparalleled mistreatment of prisoners, must be re-evaluated and recognized for what they are, and efforts to reject, resist and expose them must be renewed so that they will not be continued in future.

My delegation would be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the United Nations and distributed to the President of the General Assembly and the President and members of the Security Council. May I remind you that we raised the issue of prisoner Saytan Waliy and other Syrian detainees from the occupied Syrian Golan with Mr. Michael Williams, your personal envoy to the Middle East, at one of our meetings with him on 19 January 2007 and he promised us that he would make all possible efforts in this regard. Our delegation

also previously brought his case up in our note of 6 January 2006 in which we raised the tragic conditions of Syrian detainees from the occupied Syrian Golan being held in Israeli prisons.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations A/61/936

General Assembly

Distr.: General
1 June 2007

Original: English

Sixty-first session
Agenda items 117 and 128

Programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007

Administration of justice at the United Nations

Report of the Redesign Panel on the United Nations system of administration of justice

Revised estimates relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 and the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 pursuant to General Assembly resolution 61/261

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/61/891). During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with the Under-Secretary-General for Management, the United Nations Ombudsman and other representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarifications.

2. In its resolution 61/261, the General Assembly stated its objective of implementing the new system of administration of justice no later than January 2009. In the transitional period until the new system becomes operational, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to ensure that the Joint Appeals Boards, the Joint Disciplinary Committees, the United Nations Administrative Tribunal and other bodies continue to function properly, to comply with the time limits of the appeals process and to clear the existing backlog and all cases before them (paras. 29-31). The Assembly also requested a series of additional reports to be submitted by the Secretary-General at the main part of its sixty-second session (paras. 32 and 33). The Assembly further requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on resources required for the implementation of the resolution as a matter of priority at the second part of its resumed sixty-first session (para. 34).

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3. The report of the Secretary-General, submitted in response to the latter request, contains his proposals for additional resources for the bienniums 2006-2007 and 2008-2009, grouped under three main areas: (a) the clearing of the backlog and pending cases before January 2009; (b) the immediate strengthening of the Office of the Ombudsman; and (c) the preparatory work for the implementation of the new system of internal justice.

4. These proposals would require additional resources in the range of $1.9 million for the last six months of the current biennium, from 1 July to 31 December 2007. This amount is intended, in large part, to cover the resource requirements for general temporary assistance to expedite the clearing of the backlog and the processing of new cases by the Panel of Counsel, the secretariats of the Joint Appeals Boards and Joint Disciplinary Committees at Headquarters and Geneva, the Administrative Law Unit and conference services, as well as 11 new posts (3 D-1, 3 P-5, 5 General Service) for regional Ombudsmen in Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi and the staffing of the Mediation Division. The Advisory Committee was informed that the Secretary-General expected to meet the additional requirements for 2006-2007 from within existing resources (see also A/61/891, paras. 55 (b) and (c)). Actual expenditure under each section will be recorded in the second performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007.

5. The Advisory Committee notes that the resources required for the continuation of the proposals in 2008-2009, along with additional requests for which resources were not requested for the current biennium, are estimated at $6.8 million. The Secretary-General indicates that the relevant resources for the continuation of the proposals for the biennium 2008-2009 would be incorporated in the initial appropriation at the time of the adoption of the programme budget in December 2007 (ibid., para. 55 (d)). **The Committee intends to revert to the requests for the biennium 2008-2009 when it takes up the proposed programme budget for that biennium. Accordingly, in the present report, the Committee's observations and recommendations are confined to the Secretary-General's revised estimates for the biennium 2006-2007.** The Committee has not addressed the Secretary-General's requests for which additional resources are sought in 2008 only, including the requests for addressing the backlog at the United Nations Administrative Tribunal and in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General (ibid., paras. 21-35) and the activities related to the implementation of the new system of administration of justice (ibid., paras. 47-50).

II. Clearing of the backlog and pending cases during the remainder of the biennium 2006-2007

6. Additional resources in the amount of $765,700 for general temporary assistance and $25,000 for operational costs are proposed for the six-month period from 1 July to 31 December 2007 to meet the requirements for increased activity related to the objective of clearing the backlog before the introduction of the new system of administration of justice. **The Advisory Committee recognizes the need to clear backlogs and ensure that new cases do not lead to an increase in the backlog while maintaining full due process standards (see General Assembly resolution 61/261, paras. 30 and 31). The Committee is therefore recommending approval of the resources requested for 2007, recalling the Secretary-General's**

indication that those requirements will be accommodated within the funds already appropriated for 2006-2007 (see para. 4 above). The Committee also recognizes a continued need for additional resources in 2008. It will consider overall requirements in this regard under the relevant sections of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009. Additional requirements for 2008 can be considered further in the light of the actual status of the backlog.

7. A breakdown of the resources requested for the different stages of the process is provided in the table below.

(United States dollars)

	General temporary assistance	*Operating expenses, supplies and equipment*
Panel of Counsel	81 500	4 700
Joint Appeals Board and Joint Disciplinary Committee secretariat at Headquarters	103 600	6 600
Joint Appeals Board and Joint Disciplinary Committee secretariat at Geneva	68 900	10 000
Administrative Law Unit	86 000	3 700
General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management	425 700	—

Panel of Counsel

8. Additional resources for general temporary assistance equivalent to six months at the P-4 level are proposed to supplement the existing staffing of the New York office of the Panel of Counsel as part of the overall effort to comply with the time limits of the appeals process, to clear the existing backlog of 100 cases and to handle the expected additional workload anticipated in 2007. Upon request, the Advisory Committee was provided with additional information on the cases filed and disposed of since 2004, with projections for 2007 and 2008 (see annex). The Committee was informed that the increase in the number of expected cases from 294 in 2006 to 332 in 2007 and 375 in 2008 was based on the assumption of the continuation of the trend of an average annual increase of 13 per cent observed between 2004 and 2006.

9. In this connection, the Advisory Committee points out that, in paragraphs 23 and 24 of its resolution 61/261, the General Assembly had agreed that legal assistance for staff should continue to be provided and that it supported the strengthening of a professional office of staff legal assistance. The Assembly had also reiterated its invitation to staff representatives to explore further the possibility of establishing a staff-funded scheme in the Organization that would provide legal advice and support to staff and to consult with the Secretary-General as deemed appropriate. The Committee recalls that, while the Redesign Panel has called for the establishment of a professional Office of Counsel, it has also pointed out that this would not preclude voluntary service in the Panel of Counsel by retired staff members of organizations of the United Nations system who are qualified lawyers as a back-up to full-time counsel (A/61/205, para. 108). **The Committee expects that the report of the Secretary-General on this issue, as requested by the General Assembly (resolution 61/261, para. 32), will be submitted as a matter of priority.**

Joint Appeals Board and Joint Disciplinary Committee secretariat at Headquarters

10. As indicated in paragraph 13 of the report of the Secretary-General, additional resources for general temporary assistance equivalent to one P-3 and one General Service position for a period of six months are requested to comply with the time limits of the appeals process and to clear the existing backlog of cases, in accordance with paragraphs 29 to 31 of General Assembly resolution 61/261. Upon request, the Advisory Committee was provided with additional information on the backlog of appeals and disciplinary cases as well as the expected new caseload in 2007 (see annex). On the basis of existing trends, it is anticipated that some 80 appeals, 20 requests for suspension of action and 20 disciplinary cases will be filed in 2007. With its current resources, the Joint Appeals Board expects to dispose of 60 appeals, 20 requests for suspension of action and 20 disciplinary cases during the year. This would lead to a net increase in the backlog from the end of 2006 to the end of 2007 from 93 to 113 appeals and from 26 to 31 disciplinary cases.

Joint Appeals Board and Joint Disciplinary Committee secretariat at Geneva

11. As indicated in paragraph 16 of his report, the Secretary-General is requesting additional resources for general temporary assistance equivalent to one P-3 for a period of six months, essentially to clear the backlog of cases. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Joint Appeals Board and Joint Disciplinary Committee had been able to dispose of cases filed in 2006 within their current staffing complements. Additional information on the number of cases expected to be filed and disposed of in 2007 and 2008 is provided in the annex.

Administrative Law Unit

12. In accordance with the transitional measures set out in resolution 61/261 (paras. 29-31), additional resources for general temporary assistance equivalent to one P-4 for a period of six months are requested to ensure that all cases are completed in a timely manner within the year that they are received in the Administrative Law Unit and to ensure that all cases are completed by 31 December 2008. The Administrative Law Unit's 2006 caseload and projections for 2007 are provided in table 2 of the report of the Secretary-General.

General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management

13. As indicated in paragraph 36 of the report of the Secretary-General, the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management will issue the Administrative Tribunal cases processed from 1 July 2007 to 31 December 2008 in English and French. Additional resources in the amount of $425,700 are requested for general temporary assistance to process the projected 65 cases expected in 2007, including editing, translation and text-processing services. It is also indicated that the Department issues on average some 60 cases per year when capacity is available.

III. Strengthening of the Office of the Ombudsman

Office of the Ombudsman

14. Additional resources in the amount of $223,800 are requested for the Office of the Ombudsman. The Secretary-General proposes to establish the following posts to staff the three branches of the Office of the Ombudsman in Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi, with effect from 1 July 2007:

(a) 1 D-1, Regional Ombudsman, Geneva;

(b) 1 General Service (Other level), Administrative Assistant, Geneva;

(c) 1 P-5, Regional Ombudsman, Vienna;

(d) 1 General Service (Other level), Administrative Assistant, Vienna;

(e) 1 D-1, Regional Ombudsman, Nairobi;

(f) 1 General Service (Other level), Administrative Assistant, Nairobi.

15. The Advisory Committee recalls that the question of the staffing of regional branches of the Office of the Ombudsman has been ongoing for some time. In its resolution 59/283, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit proposals to strengthen the Office of the Ombudsman and to improve the access of staff serving in locations away from Headquarters to its services. In response to that request (A/60/303), the Secretary-General proposed to create three branch offices of the Office of the Ombudsman in Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi, headed by chiefs at the D-1 level. The Committee expressed its opinion that the proposal needed to be reworked and that thought should be given to finding means to provide services to staff without automatically creating new posts, taking fully into account existing requests in the proposed programme budget for 2006-2007 (A/60/7/Add.1, para. 5). Subsequently, the Assembly, in paragraphs 7 and 8 of its resolution 60/246, requested the Secretary-General to utilize the experimental arrangement of flexibility for 50 posts (resolution 58/270, para. 14) to provide for the 3 D-1 posts requested for the regional Ombudsmen. However, in the first performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 (A/61/593, para. 36), the Secretary-General reported that efforts to identify three D-1 posts for that purpose had been unsuccessful. The Assembly expressed its concern that those posts had not been provided for and reiterated its request that the Secretary-General expeditiously implement paragraph 8 of its resolution 60/246 (resolution 61/252, sect. VIII, para. 3). In his note (A/61/758) containing his comments on the report of the Redesign Panel (A/61/205), the Secretary-General proposed to establish three branch offices of the Office of the Ombudsman, including related resources. In its resolution 61/261 (paras. 12 and 13), the Assembly decided to create a single integrated and decentralized Office of the Ombudsman for the United Nations Secretariat, funds and programmes, and again requested the Secretary-General to identify three posts for the Office of the Ombudsman for Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi.

16. As stated above, the Secretary-General is requesting the establishment of six new posts to staff the regional offices of the Ombudsman. **The Advisory Committee notes that the Secretary-General's efforts to identify three posts for the regional Ombudsmen, as requested by the General Assembly in paragraph 13 of its resolution 61/261, have not yet been successful. In view of**

the importance of providing access to the services of the Ombudsman for staff away from Headquarters, the Committee recommends that the posts requested be established as temporary positions funded through general temporary assistance for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2007.

Mediation Division

17. Total resources requested for the Mediation Division for 2006-2007 amount to $410,500. The Secretary-General proposes to establish the following posts with effect from 1 July 2007, in accordance with paragraph 16 of General Assembly resolution 61/261 and recommendations of the Redesign Panel (see A/61/891, paras. 44-46):

(a) 1 D-1, Chief Mediator;

(b) 2 P-5, Senior Mediators;

(c) 2 General Service (Other level).

18. The General Assembly may wish to recall that, in a statement made to the Fifth Committee prior to the adoption of resolution 61/261, the Secretariat had put on the record its understanding that there were no financial implications relating to, inter alia, operative paragraph 16, concerning the establishment of the Mediation Division, and that details on the resource requirements would be presented to the Assembly at its sixty-second session in the context of the report requested in paragraph 32 of the resolution. **Given that resolution 61/261 was adopted by the Assembly subsequent to that statement, the Advisory Committee shall revert to this issue in the context of its consideration of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.**

Office of Central Support Services

19. The Advisory Committee notes that the adoption of the above proposals would entail additional resources under budget section 28D, Office of Central Support Services, for general operating expenses for the provision of office furniture in the amount of $28,700 as well as the rental and maintenance of premises and a one-time provision for the alteration of office space, estimated at $108,500 for the biennium 2006-2007.

IV. Conclusion

20. **The actions to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the revised estimates relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 pursuant to its resolution 61/261 are indicated in paragraphs 55 (a) to (c) of the report of the Secretary-General (A/61/891). The Advisory Committee's recommendations are contained in paragraphs 6, 16 and 18 above. As regards paragraph 55 (d) of the report of the Secretary-General, the Committee points out that the requests for the biennium 2008-2009 should be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget.**

Annex

Workload and backlog information and projections for 2007-2008

Panel of Counsel

Year	*Opening balance*	*Cases filed*	*Cases disposed*	*Closing balance*
2004	147	224	234	137
2005	137	266	233	170
2006	170	294	233	231
2007	231	332	—	—
2008	—	375	—	—

Joint Appeals Board at Headquarters

Year	*Opening balance*	*Cases filed*	*Cases disposed*	*Closing balance*
2004	107	285[a]	92	300
2005	300	99	83	316
2006	316	108	331[a]	93
2007	93	100	80	113
2008	113	100	80	133

[a] Includes 233 class action cases regarding non-conversion to permanent appointment, which could have been consolidated as one case for review. In 2006 the parties agreed to a direct submission of these 233 cases to the Administrative Tribunal.

Joint Disciplinary Committee at Headquarters

Year	*Opening balance*	*Cases filed*	*Cases disposed*	*Closing balance*
2004	7	10	6	11
2005	11	22	14	19
2006	19	24	17	26
2007	26	25	20	31

Joint Appeals Board at Geneva

Year	*Opening balance*	*Cases filed*[a]	*Cases disposed*	*Closing balance*
2007	33	30	34	29
2008	29	24	35	18

[a] Includes requests for suspension of action.

Joint Disciplinary Committee at Geneva

Year	*Opening balance*	*Cases filed*	*Cases disposed*	*Closing balance*
2007	13	8	17	4
2008	4	8	12	0